

REFERENCES AND REVIEWS

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provided for an accurate, reproducible, and rapid method. Twenty microliters of serum are required for this technique.

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PROPINAL, A NEW INTRAVENOUS, NONBARBITURATE ANESTHETIC AGENT — N. Nishimura. *Anesth. Analg.*—Vol. 41:265 (May-June) 1962.

Propinal (a derivative of guaiacol) was prepared as an emulsion with 0.1 per cent lecithin. It was administered to 200 patients during clinical anesthesia and proved to be an effective intravenous anesthetic agent without complications seen in other barbiturates. Respiration, circulation, and electroencephalographic changes were observed. These studies were conducted in Japan.

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ENRICHED PROLINE-TWEEN AGAR—L. E. Juley, H. Walch, Jr., and E. Bird. *Amer. J. Clin. Path.*—Vol. 37:664 (June) 1962.

The authors describe a medium containing proline, thiamine, biotin, and Tween 20 that supports typical mycelial growth and chlamydospore formation by *Candida* species. It has the advantages of being reproducible, simple to prepare and inexpensive and of having an excellent degree of clarity for microscopic observation.

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VARIABILITY OF SERUM CHOLESTEROL IN HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIA—F. T. Billings. *Arch. Intern. Med.*—Vol. 110:53 (July) 1962.

A lawyer with hypercholesterolemia was under observation during 12 years, until his death. He lived a life characterized by irregularity and unpredictability. Serum total cholesterol

levels ranged widely and seemed unrelated to treatment. In spite of atherosclerotic stigmata manifested by xanthomata, coronary artery disease, intermittent claudication, and repeated small cerebrovascular "strokes," he was active in his profession until his death, at the age of 68.

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QUALITY CONTROL FOR SMALL HOSPITAL LABORATORIES—D. J. Campbell. *Canad. Med. Ass. J.*—Vol. 86:1069 (June 9) 1962.

Following completion of an 8-week course in training methods of determining glucose, blood urea nitrogen, bilirubin, and prothrombin time, laboratory aides were found to be reporting 65 per cent wrong results. After one year of a quality control program, whereby weekly unknowns were sent out, this error figure had been lowered to one out of five. The paper shows the benefit and necessity of a quality control program for small hospitals.

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1. Cohen, B. M.: *M. Times* 88:855 (July) 1960. 2. Cohen, B. M.: *Méd. et Hyg. (Genève)* #494, p. 210 (Mar. 15) 1961.

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